

## **Women's Health-Pap Tests**

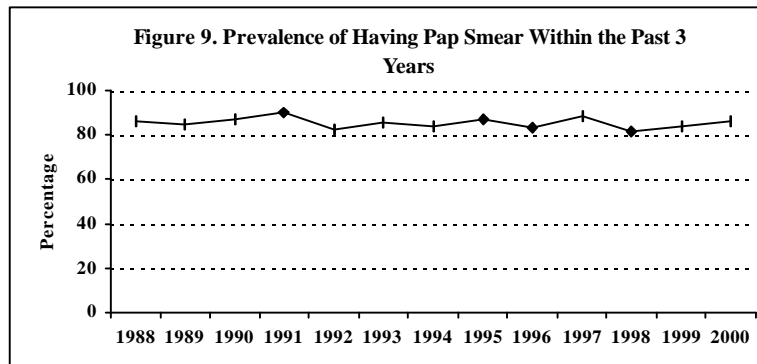
Pap tests are an important part of annual gynecological examinations. They provide an excellent opportunity for early discovery of cervical dysplasia, which, if left untreated can lead to invasive cervical cancer. The BRFSS asked female respondents if they had ever had a Pap test and if they had had one within the previous 3 years. According to BRFSS data, most women in South Carolina are conscientious about having Pap smears performed on a regular basis.

### ***Ever Had Pap Smear***

The BRFSS indicated that almost 96 percent of all women had ever had at least one Pap smear in their lifetimes. Almost 97 percent of white women respondents reported that they had submitted to the test at least once, while about 94 percent of black women reported having had at least one Pap smear. Women between the ages of 45 and 54 years of age were in the group most likely to have ever had a Pap test. Income and education levels apparently made only a slight difference in the number of women who had experienced a Pap smear. In almost every age, education, and income group, over 90 percent of women had taken Pap smears at least once in their lifetimes. Only the group of women between 18 and 24 years old had a prevalence that was lower than 90 percent, and it was 89.9 percent. This data is encouraging, since submitting to regular Pap tests is the primary method of early cervical dysplasia and cancer detection.

### ***Had Pap Smear Within 3 Years***

Overall, 84.4 percent of women had Pap smears within 3 years. White women showed a higher prevalence than black women. Women between the ages of 25 and 34 had a prevalence of almost 93 percent, and they were most likely to have had a Pap smear within 3 years. Women who had less than a high school education were least likely to have had a Pap smear within 3 years; only about 77 percent of respondents in this group claimed to have had the test. Trend data shows that since 1988, the percentage of women who have had a pap smear within 3 years has been about 90 percent.

**Table 9. Prevalence of Having Pap Smear Test, 2000**

	Ever Had Pap Smear			Had Pap Smear Within 3 Years		
	%	95% CI		%	95% CI	
<b>Overall</b>	95.9	94.8	97.0	86.4	84.6	88.1
<b>Race</b>						
White	96.7	95.6	97.8	86.7	84.8	88.6
Black	94.1	91.3	96.8	85.4	81.4	89.4
<b>Age</b>						
18-24	89.9	84.8	94.9	89.3	84.2	94.4
25-34	97.3	95.5	99.1	92.8	90.1	95.5
35-44	97.7	95.7	99.7	90.3	87.1	93.6
45-54	98.4	96.9	99.8	90.0	86.7	93.4
55-64	95.3	92.3	98.3	81.2	76.0	86.4
65 +	94.7	91.8	97.7	74.0	68.6	79.4
<b>Education</b>						
<High School	93.1	89.3	96.9	76.8	70.8	82.8
HS graduate	95.5	93.5	97.5	84.7	81.7	87.7
Some College	97.3	95.5	99.0	89.8	86.9	92.7
College graduate	97.0	95.3	98.7	91.7	89.1	94.4
<b>House Hold Income</b>						
<\$25,000	94.5	92.2	96.9	80.0	76.3	83.8
\$25,000-\$49,999	96.4	94.5	98.3	90.2	87.4	92.9
\$50,000-\$74,999	98.4	96.2	100.0	93.3	89.7	96.9
\$75,000+	99.5	98.5	100.0	95.1	91.8	98.5
<b>Employment</b>						
Employed	96.7	95.4	98.0	90.8	88.9	92.8
Unemployed	92.6	86.0	99.1	82.2	73.7	90.6
Others	95.6	93.6	97.5	81.4	77.9	85.0
Unable to work	92.2	85.8	98.7	71.9	62.9	80.9